

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
**American Literature and Composition Honors**  
**Emily Dickinson**

“Because I could not stop for Death”  
(Page 755)

1. Identify examples of personification in the poem.
2. What three places does the carriage pass? What do each of these places symbolize?
3. Analyze the meaning of the line “We paused before a House that seemed / A Swelling of the Ground” paying close attention to the word “House”.
4. Why does time lose its meaning in the final stanza?
5. Identify examples of alliteration in the poem.

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“The Soul selects her own Society”  
(Page 761)

1. Identify examples of slant rhyme in both the second and third stanzas.
2. What is Dickinson referring to with the word “Soul”?
3. Explain what the soul selects?
4. Which line reveals that the soul is given many options?
5. The phrase “Choose One” emphasizes that the decision is irreversible. Which other line shows that the decision is complete?

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“I heard a Fly buzz when I died”  
(Page 763)

1. Define onomatopoeia. Find an example of the literary device in the poem.
2. Identify examples of slant rhyme in the first three stanzas? What type of rhyme is present in the final stanza?
3. In lines 5 and 6, what are the “Eyes” and “Breaths” doing? What do they await?
4. In the last two stanzas, the speaker wills away worldly possessions and then dies. What impression of death is received in these lines?
5. What words or phrases in the poem seem to indicate an implied truth about life, death, or the human soul?

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“My life closed twice before its close”  
(Page 760)

1. Identify an example of assonant rhyme in the poem.
2. Explain the meaning of the first line of the poem.
3. What two lines of the poem represent metaphors of vision? Explain the comparison.
4. Identify the paradox in the poem. What truth does the paradox convey?
5. What essential truths about death and dying does Dickinson convey in the poem?

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“My Life had stood – a Loaded Gun”  
(Pages 764-765)

1. Identify an example of alliteration and consonance in the poem.
2. Why does the speaker repeat the word “And” three times at the beginning of the first three lines in the second stanza? Identify this literary device.
3. Identify the allusion utilized in the third stanza. Explain how the speaker’s allusion contributes to the poem’s theme.
4. What essential truths about life does this poem express?
5. Identify the paradox in the poem. What truth does the paradox convey?

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“Success is counted sweetest”  
(Page 757)

1. Identify an example of consonance in the first stanza.
2. What paradox lies at the heart of this poem?
3. How is imagery utilized in the first stanza?
4. Why does Dickinson enclose the word “dying” in dashes in line 9?